

achieve agreement on an objective and fair factfinding process on what happened to bring us to this sad point and how we can avoid having it ever happen again. And we want to get the peace process going.

The future of the peoples involved here, the future of the peace process and the stability of the region are at stake. We cannot afford to fail here. In order to succeed, though once again we have a situation piled high with grievance, we have got to move beyond blame. We have got to focus on what we're going to do tomorrow and the next day and the next day. We have to have a balanced, mutual disengagement, and we have to restore the security cooperation and have the confidence-building measures necessary for people to go about their business and live in peace and begin to rebuild the bonds of trust.

The only other thing I want to ask you all is just to remember before these terrible events how far we have come since September 19, 1993, when the Palestinians and Israelis signed the agreement to find a peaceful future together and resolve their differences peacefully on the lawn of the White House.

We shouldn't give it all up for what has happened in the last few weeks. And what has happened in these last few weeks reminds us of the terrible alternative to continuing to live in peace and to continuing the peace process.

President Mubarak, I am grateful to you, again. We can, if we will look to the future and proceed in a fair and balanced way, we can do what we have to do here, and we must do that.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Jolie Ville Golf Resort. In his remarks, he referred to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Abdullah II of Jordan; United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; and European Union Council Secretary General Javier Solana, High Representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **Statement on the Legislative Agenda To Bridge the Digital Divide**

*October 16, 2000*

I am pleased by a new report released today by the Commerce Department, documenting a sharp increase in the number of Americans that have access to computers and the Internet. Although much more remains to be done to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity for all Americans, I am especially pleased that many low-income, rural, and minority households are beginning to "get connected" at rates faster than the national average.

Access to these information age tools is becoming critical to full participation in America's economic, political, and social life. Americans are using the Internet to vote, look for work, acquire new skills, and communicate with their children's teachers. To ensure that we continue to make progress in bridging the digital divide, I urge Congress to fund the initiatives that I have proposed in my budget. These include my proposals to fully fund community technology centers, preparing tomorrow's teachers to use technology, assistive technology for people with disabilities, and the Commerce Department's home Internet access and technology opportunity program.

## **Statement on the Resignation of Barry R. McCaffrey as Director of National Drug Control Policy**

*October 16, 2000*

General Barry McCaffrey, USA (Ret.), has informed me that he will step down in January as Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend him for his extraordinary work in meeting one of our Nation's most pressing challenges. General McCaffrey has brought to his post the same professionalism, dedication, and leadership that have exemplified his 40 years of steadfast service to our Nation.

In accepting this post in 1996, General McCaffrey retired from the United States Army as its youngest and most decorated

four-star general. He had served and commanded with honor from West Point to the Dominican Republic to Vietnam to the Persian Gulf and, finally, as Commander in Chief, Southern Command. He was twice awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation's second-highest military honor.

In the nearly 5 years General McCaffrey has led our war on drugs, we have made significant progress both at home and abroad. We have dramatically increased our counter-drug spending and launched a \$1 billion public-private media campaign to educate young people about the dangers of drug use. Our efforts are paying off. Adolescent drug use in the United States dropped 21 percent in the past 2 years alone, and drug-related murders are at their lowest level in a decade. And working with our international partners, we have helped to significantly reduce coca cultivation in Latin America and helped to build a level drug-free playing field for the world's Olympians.

Our Nation and my administration have benefited greatly from General McCaffrey's outstanding dedication, enterprise, and leadership. He has been a valued member of my Cabinet, and I am grateful for his sound counsel. I am confident that he will continue to serve our Nation with honor and distinction in the years ahead. The First Lady and I wish him and his wife, Jill, all the best in their new endeavors.

### **Statement on the Observance of World Food Day**

*October 16, 2000*

Today, as we observe World Food Day and resolve to continue our work to combat hunger worldwide, I urge Congress to enact my budget proposal to help those here at home by ensuring that legal immigrants have access to critical nutrition and health assistance. Vice President Gore and I believe that legal immigrants should have the same economic opportunity and bear the same responsibility as other members of society. Upon signing the welfare reform law, I made a commitment to reverse unnecessary cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that had nothing to do

with the law's goal of moving people from welfare to work.

In 1997 and 1998, I joined Congress in taking steps to restore eligibility for many vulnerable immigrants. Now it is time to restore benefits to other legal immigrants who are working hard and playing by the rules but are in need of assistance. This action would be an important step toward making sure this country does its part to reduce hunger. Congress must also act now to restore State options to extend Medicaid and SCHIP coverage to vulnerable legal immigrant women and children. I look forward to working with Members of Congress in these final days of the budget negotiations to increase access to nutrition assistance and health benefits for legal immigrants.

### **Proclamation 7364—Amending Proclamation 7362, Display of the Flag at Half-Staff as a Mark of Respect for Those Who Died on the United States Ship COLE**

*October 16, 2000*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to extend the display of the flag at half-staff as a mark of respect for those who died on the United States Ship COLE, it is hereby ordered that Proclamation 7362 of October 12, 2000, is amended by deleting in the first sentence the words "Monday, October 16" and inserting in their place the words "Wednesday, October 18."

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:51 a.m., October 17, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 18.